Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 /073 W

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P R 020805Z JUL 75 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1142 INFO CINCPAC CINCUNC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, KS, OREP (BRADY/PITCHFORD)

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL ASK ABOUT FIRING ON ROK FREIGHTER

1. DURING JUNE 20-25 VISIT TO SEOUL HFAC STAFF MEMBER
JOHN BRADY ASKED EMBASSY AND MOFA ABOUT MJSAN-HO,
ROK FLAG FREIGHTER FIRED ON BY COMMUNIST VESSEL NEAR
CAMBODIA ON MAY 4. BRADY WAS INTERESTED IN SASAN-HO
AS IT RELATED TO MAY 12 MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT AND FROM HIS
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS SEEMS CLEAR HE WAS TRYING TO
ESTABLISH WHETHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND COMMERCIAL
SHIPPING COMPANIES WERE NOTIFIED OF MASAN-HO
INCIDENT AND DANGER IT ILLUSTRATED IN CAMBODIAN WATERS.

2. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS MOFA AND EMBASSY BOTH CONFIRMED THAT REPORTS OF MASAN-HO ATTACK WERE FIRST RECEIVED IN SEOUL LATE EVENING MAY 4 (LOCAL TIME) AND THAT MOFA SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSY EARLY MORNING, MAY 5. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER FURTHER REPORTS FROM ROK MILITARY AND LATER US NAVY SOURCES INDICATED MASAN-HO HAD ESCAPED DANGER. BRADY WAS TOLD THAT IN ANY CASE MAY 5 POL COUNSELOR TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS CENTER TO REPORT OUTLIND OF EVENTS AND THAT UN COMMAND HAD RECEIVED COPIES OF US NAVY MESSAGES IN WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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WASHINGTON NOTIFIED OF AFFAIR. WE SAID WE HAD NOT

NOTIFIED ANY SHIPPING COMPANIES. MOFA TOLD BRADY THAT IT HAD BRIEFED ITS OWN SHIPPING COMPANIES THROUGH MARITIME AUTHORITIES BUT NO ONE ELSE.

3. WE EXPECT BRADY WILL MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES ON RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

4. SUMMARY STAFFDEL VISIT FOLLOWS SEPTEL. SNEIDER

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TAGS: MOPS, OREP, KS, US, (BRADY), (PITCHFORD)
To: STATE

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